

# Finance Alert — April 2026



**We are here to support you and your church**

**The Finance team at St Mary's house are here to support and guide you and your church, helping you to boost giving and generosity, simplifying your Accounts and Administration and guiding you through now and future changes.**

## Return of Parish Finance Reminder

Your **2025** Return of Parish Finance is required by the Archbishops Council in London. Your APCM meeting must have been held by the 31st of May and your accounts submitted no later than 28 days later. If you are struggling to reach this deadline, please reach out to the finance team on the below email and we will be able to guide you through [parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org)  
You can complete using the link <http://parishreturns.churchofengland.org>.

## Cornerstone Update

**Cornerstone** has completed its second round of training. Look at some of the fab feedback we have received :-

We highly recommend Cornerstone for all Churches, this platform helps churches to boost giving and generosity and is designed specifically for each individual church. To register your interest in taking part in the Cornerstone training please click the link [Diocese of Lichfield - Cornerstone Sign Up – Fill in form](#)



All of it. I learned to think about the whole concept of Giving with a more open mindset.

I guess we would say we really needed this.

All of it. Absolutely insightful. It's so lovely to know we have your support.

A very useful Course and Cornerstone will become a very useful tool. 3 lovely lady presenters too!

## Data Developments



**Did you know** that the Lichfield Diocese are partnered with Data Developments to help provide training resources for my giving online and my fund accounting.

Data Developments next live webinars for Gift aid secretaries will take place on the 7th April 2026 at 1pm. To register for this free webinar click the link [Gift Aid Secretaries training part 1](#)

For more information please email us at [parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org)

## A Church Near You ([www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com))



**A church near you** can act as a free website to your church. All it takes is a little time to customise and populate the areas of your churches page and you can promote services and events, make people aware of your available spaces and allow people to donate to your church. If you are not currently using a church near you and would like some more information drop us an email on [parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org)

## Energy Footprint.

**Did you know** that a lot of grant applications now require your Energy Footprint Tool to be up to date and submitted. The deadline for this is **30th June 2026**. You can submit your report via the link below <http://parishreturns.churchofengland.org>.

For more information or help, please reach out to

[parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org)



## Applying for Grants

**If you are** considering applying for a grant please be mindful that the following must be filed and up to date to allow you to be considered:-

**Accounts**

**Fees**

**Energy Footprint Tool**

**Return of Parish Finance**

For more information please email

[parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org)

## Up and coming Diary Dates:-

APCM	To be held by 31st May 2026
Accounts	To be sent within 28 days of your APCM meeting
Return of Parish Finance	30th June 2026
Energy Footprint	30th June 2026



## Free Fundraising for your church!

**We have** partnered with [easy fundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.com) to give our churches a free, easy and secure way to get your entire congregation raising funds at no extra cost or effort.

Register your church for free, ask your congregation to join and simply shop online. Each time they do, the retailer will give a cashback donation to your church. Over £2m has been raised for churches and religious groups across the country so far. You can click the following link to sign up [Easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.com) or if you would like a chat please email Rach at [parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org)



## The Finance Department :- Who's who here at St Marys

Jonathan Hill	Director of Finance
Jess Dace	Deputy to the Director of Finance
Yvonne Leonard	Executive Assistant to the Director of finance
Jean Overton	Parish Support Team Officer
Julie Lunn	Parish Support Team Officer and Gift Aid
Nici Danaher	Finance Officer including Direct Debits
Karen Brooke	Senior Support Officer
Gill Woodward	Administration Officer
Chloe Smith	Finance Administration Officer
Rachael Wheeler	Finance Development Worker and Giving Advisor
Fiona North	Project Support and Church Buildings Officer

## A prayer for Easter



**Gracious God,**

as we reflect on Easter, may we carry your love and redemption in our hearts. Guide us in living out the Easter message daily and sharing your light with the world.

Amen

## New releases for 2026

**New Training sessions coming soon**

\* Cornerstone    \* Church Organiser    \* MGAOL    \*MFAOL    \*Deanery

\* Ask us anything Drop in sessions

For more information on any of the above please email us on [parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org)



# Best wishes from The Finance Department

